WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A user interface for receiving an order comprising:

(a) an input area adapted to receive handwritten input indicating an item to add to the order;

(b) a selection window adapted to display items corresponding to the handwritten input; and

(c) an order window adapted to display selected items, as the order.

2.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the input area is further adapted to receive handwritten input indicating a command associated with the order.

3.   The user interface of claim 2, wherein the command is one of creating the order, retrieving the order, voiding the order, retrieving a status of the order, sending the order to a preparation area, adjusting quantities associated with the order, adjusting seat numbers associated with the order, printing a check remotely for the order, printing a check locally for the order, settling a check for the order, adding a complimentary item to the order, processing a split check for the order, searching for items, providing an incremental lookup, displaying items in groups, searching for modifiers, logging on an employee, and logging out an employee.

4.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the input area is further adapted to receive handwritten numeric input associated with the order.

5.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the input area is further adapted to receive a selection of the item, wherein the selection is a handwritten character.

6.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the selection window is further adapted to receive a selection of an item from the displayed items, wherein the selection is a touch of the item listed in the displayed items.

7.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the input area is adapted to recognize an abbreviation of the item as the handwritten input.

8.   The user interface of claim 1, further comprising an entry status bar that displays characters that are entered in the input area, as the characters are being entered.

9.   The user interface of claim 1, further comprising a button that executes a command associated with the order.

10.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the input area is further adapted to receive keyboard input as an alternative to the handwritten input.

11.   The user interface of claim 1, wherein the input area is further adapted to receive a second handwritten input indicating a modifier associated with a selected item,

wherein the selection window is further adapted to display modifiers corresponding to the

second handwritten input, and

wherein the order window is further adapted to display selected modifiers in the order.

12.   The user interface of claim 11, wherein the selection window is further adapted to receive

a selection of a modifier from the displayed modifiers, wherein the selection is a touch of the

modifier listed in the displayed modifiers.

13.   The user interface of claim 11, wherein the input area is adapted to recognize an

abbreviation of the modifier as the second handwritten input.

14.   The user interface of claim 11, wherein the user interface further comprises a toggle

button adapted to configure the input area to receive a handwritten input as one of an item and a

modifier.

15.   The user interface of claim 11, wherein the user interface is adapted to require a user to

choose a modifier after the user interface receives a selected item.

16.   An apparatus for recording an order comprising:

        (a) a computer provisioned with a user interface, the user interface comprising

an input area adapted to receive handwritten input indicating an item to add to the

order,

a selection window adapted to display a list of items corresponding to the

handwritten input, including a highlighted entry in the list, and

an order window adapted to display items selected to be added to the order; and

(b) a button in communication with the computer, wherein the button is adapted to send a

signal to the computer when the button is pressed, and wherein the signal indicates a selection of

the highlighted entry.

17.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the handwritten input is an abbreviation for an item,

and wherein the highlighted item corresponds to the abbreviation.

18.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the button is adapted to send a second signal to the

computer when the button is held down, and wherein the second signal causes the computer to

accept handwritten input in the input area as a command associated with the order.

19.   The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a wireless card in communication with the

computer, wherein the wireless card enables the computer to wirelessly communicate with a

computer network.

20.   The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a notification device in communication

with the computer, wherein the notification device provides a non-visual alert for at least one of

an error condition and a prompt for input of a modifier associated with a selected item.

21.   The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the notification device is one of a vibrator and a

speaker.

22.   The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a tether adapted to connect the computer to

a user of the apparatus.

23.   The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a belt pack attached to the tether, wherein

the belt pack is adapted to be worn by the user.

24.   The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the belt pack includes a battery in communication

with the computer.

25.   The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the belt pack includes a notification device in

communication with the computer.

26.   The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the belt pack includes a credit card reader in

communication with the computer.

27.   The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the belt pack includes a printer in communication

with the computer.

28.   The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the tether contains cables connecting the computer to

at least one of a battery, a notification device, a credit card reader, and a printer, in the belt pack.

29.   The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising at least one of a credit card reader and a

printer in communication with the computer.

30.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the input area comprises a command input section, an

item input section, and a numeric input section,

        wherein the command input section is adapted to receive characters of commands,

        wherein the item input section is adapted to receive characters of items, and

        wherein the numeric input section is adapted to receive numeric characters.

31.   The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the item input section is further adapted to receive

characters identifying groups of items.

32.   The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the command input section is adapted to receive lowercase cursive characters and to return uppercase characters, and wherein the item input section is adapted to receive lowercase cursive characters and to return lowercase characters.

33.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the input area is further adapted to receive a second handwritten input indicating a modifier associated with a selected item,

    wherein the selection window is further adapted to display a second list of modifiers corresponding to the second handwritten input, including a highlighted entry of the second list, and

    wherein the order window is further adapted to display selected modifiers in the order.

34.   A system for facilitating point-of-sale (POS) transactions comprising:

    (a) one or more mobile POS devices, wherein at least one of the mobile POS devices is provisioned with a user interface, the user interface comprising

        an input area adapted to receive handwritten input indicating an item to add to the

            order,

        a selection window adapted to display items corresponding to the handwritten

            input, and

        an order window adapted to display, as the order, selected items;

    (b) a POS server in wireless communication with the one or more mobile POS devices; and

(c) a central server in communication with the POS server.

35.   The system of claim 34, wherein the at least one mobile POS device is adapted to transmit the order through the POS server and to the central server.

36.   The system of claim 34, wherein the one or more mobile POS devices are adapted to transmit the order for output at a preparation area terminal.

37.   The system of claim 34, further comprising:

    (d) a manager workstation in communication with the central server;

    (e) one or more fixed POS stations in communication with the central server; and

    (f) a preparation area terminal in communication with the central server.

38.   The system of claim 37, wherein at least one of the one or more fixed POS stations is provisioned with the user interface.

39.   The system of claim 35, wherein the input area is further adapted to receive a handwritten input indicating a command to send the order for preparation,

    wherein, in response to the command, a mobile POS device of the at least one of the mobile POS devices transmits the order through the POS server and to the central server, and

wherein the central server transmits the order to the preparation area terminal for output

to a user.

40.   The system of claim 35, wherein the input area is further adapted to receive a second

handwritten input indicating a modifier associated with a selected item,

      wherein the selection window is further adapted to display modifiers corresponding to the

second handwritten input, and

      wherein the order window is further adapted to display selected modifiers in the order.

41.   A method for receiving an order of an item through a POS computer comprising the steps

of:

      receiving a handwritten input from a user on a user interface of the POS computer,

wherein the handwritten input identifies the item;

      receiving an indication from the user through the POS computer, wherein the indication

selects the item; and

      adding the item to the order.

42.   The method of claim 41, wherein the indication comprises one of a depressed button on

the POS computer and a second handwritten input on the user interface of the POS computer.

43.   The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of displaying a list of possible items corresponding to the handwritten input, and wherein the indication comprises touching the item in the list.

44.   The method of claim 41, wherein the step of receiving the handwritten input comprises recognizing an abbreviation for the item.

45.   The method of claim 41, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second handwritten input from the user identifying a modifier associated with the item;

receiving a second indication from the user, wherein the second indication selects the modifier; and

adding the modifier to the order.

46.   The method of claim 41, further comprising the steps of:

prompting the user for a modifier associated with the item;

receiving a selected modifier from the user; and

adding the selected modifier to the order.

47.   The method of claim 46, wherein the step of prompting comprises providing the user with non-visual feedback.

48.   The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of alerting the user to an error

condition by providing non-visual feedback.

49.   The method of claim 41, further comprising the steps of:

        displaying the order on the POS computer;

        receiving a command to send the order for preparation; and

        sending the order to an output device in a preparation area.

50.   The method of claim 41, wherein the step of receiving the command to the send the order

comprises receiving a second handwritten input from the user on the user interface of the POS

computer.

51.   The method of claim 41, wherein the POS computer has a button, and wherein the step of

receiving the command to send the order comprises receiving a push of the button concurrent

with a second handwritten input from the user on the user interface of the POS computer.

52.   A method for receiving an order of a customer through a user interface of a mobile POS

computer, the user interface comprising an input area, a selection window, and an order window,

the method comprising the steps of:

        receiving handwritten input through the input area;

displaying a list of items in the selection window that correspond to the handwritten

input;

receiving a selection of an item to add to the order, wherein the selection is one of a

second handwritten input in the input area and a touch of an entry listed in the selection window;

and

displaying the selected item in the order window as the order.

53.   The method of claim 52, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting the order from the mobile POS computer to a server; and

transmitting the order from the server to an output device in a preparation area.

54.   The method of claim 52, wherein the mobile POS computer has a button and wherein the

method further comprises the step of displaying a highlighted item in the selection window, and

wherein the selection is one of the second handwritten input in the input area, the touch

of an entry listed in the selection window, and a press of the button, and

wherein, if the selection is the press of the button, then the selected item is the

highlighted item.

55.   The method of claim 52, wherein the handwritten input is a character and the items in the

list have abbreviations beginning with the character.

56.   The method of claim 52, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a prompt to choose a modifier associated with the selected item;

displaying a list of modifiers in the selection window that correspond to the selected item;

receiving a selection of a modifier to add to the order, wherein the selection is one of a

third handwritten input in the input area and a touch of a modifier entry listed in the selection

window; and

displaying the selected modifier in the order window as part of the order.

57.   The method of claim 56, wherein the mobile POS computer has a button and wherein the

method further comprises the step of displaying a highlighted modifier in the selection window,

and

wherein the selection of the modifier is one of the third handwritten input in the input

area, the touch of an entry listed in the selection window, and a press of the button, and

wherein, if the selection is the press of the button, then the selected modifier is the

highlighted modifier.

58.   A user interface for receiving an order comprising:

(a) an input area adapted to receive handwritten input indicating an item to add to the

order;

(b) a selection window adapted to display items corresponding to the handwritten input;

(c) an order window adapted to display selected items, as the order,

wherein the input area comprises a command input section, an item input section, and a numeric input section,

wherein the command input section is adapted to receive characters of commands,

wherein the item input section is adapted to receive characters of items, and

wherein the numeric input section is adapted to receive numeric characters.

59. The user interface of claim 58, wherein the item input section is capable of receiving characters identifying groups of items.

60. The user interface of claim 58, wherein the command input section is adapted to receive lowercase cursive characters and to return uppercase characters, and wherein the item input section is adapted to receive lowercase cursive characters and to return lowercase characters.

61. A user interface for receiving an order comprising:

(a) an input area adapted to receive a handwritten input corresponding to one of an item, a modifier, and a command, wherein the handwritten input is an abbreviation having one or more characters; and

(b) a selection window adapted to display selections of the one of an item, a modifier, and a command, wherein the selections have abbreviations beginning with the one or more characters received through the input area, and wherein the selection window is further adapted to receive a choice of the selections from a user.

62.   The user interface of claim 61, wherein the selection window is further adapted to highlight a selection that has an abbreviation matching the one or more characters received through the input area.

63.   The user interface of claim 61, wherein the choice comprises a touch of a selection listed in the selection window.

64.   The user interface of claim 62, wherein the choice comprises a signal received from a button in communication with the user interface, and wherein the choice is the selection that is highlighted in the selection window.